

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 33-48, and 51-54 are pending in the application.

The Examiner has presented obviousness type double patenting rejections over U.S. Patent 6,287,745 and U.S. Application 09/978,787.


In this regard, Applicants note that a Terminal Disclaimer for U.S. Patent 6,287,745 is being filed contemporaneously herewith. Regarding the double patenting rejections over U.S. Application 09/978,787, Applicants note that these rejections are provisional rejections and that U.S. Application 09/978,787 has not meanwhile issued as a Patent.<sup>1</sup>

For any and all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is patentable.

Because all rejections have been addressed and overcome, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any questions remain, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>1</sup> Of course, it may issue at some time in the future.